

## Local Notes

### Dewey's Sword on View.

Admiral Dewey's beautiful \$10,000 sword, presented to him on behalf of the nation last week, has been placed on exhibition at the office of the Secretary of the Navy. The public exhibition of the nation's gift was ordered by Acting Secretary Allen, with the full consent of Admiral Dewey, in order to meet the wishes of the citizens of Washington. When the time, which is shortly to be presented to the Admiral is fitted up the sword will be installed in its proper place there.

### Norris and Holmead.

By a vote of the twelve members of the Democratic central committee, Jas. L. Norris was last Tuesday night declared the choice of the Democrats of the District for national committee man, and an opposing faction of the committee simultaneously, in an adjoining room at Mever's Hotel, declared William Holmead selected for the same honor. The third meeting of the local Democratic organization to name a successor to the late Lawrence Gardner ended in a wild tumult and great disorder, and the entire matter will now go to the national committee to decide which of the two gentlemen named has the right to represent the District of Columbia. Last Tuesday's contest was probably the most spirited political controversy held in the District since the disfranchisement of the resident population, and the result was the widening of the breach between the two contending factions of the District Democracy to such an extent as to make them appear irreconcilable. While the faction which selected Mr. Norris, claiming to be the legitimate body were rejoicing over the victory for their candidate, the bolters were declaring war to the knife on the nominee.

### Anti-Trust League Meeting.

At the meeting of the Washington local branch of the American Anti-Trust League last Monday night a committee of twenty-five was appointed to take the necessary steps to secure the national anti-trust convention for the city of Washington. There is now a lively contest between several of the leading cities to secure the convention. It is expected that more than 2,000 delegates will attend. The above committee is also authorized to secure the co-operation of the Board of Trade, the Business Men's Association, and other public spirited citizens.

A number of the most prominent men in the country have already signified their intention to join in making the call for the convention as well as to be present and take part in the deliberations. The convention will meet in January, while Congress is in session, and as several of the leading members of Congress are preparing bills against trusts, to be introduced early in the session, and both the Industrial and Interstate Commerce Commissions will have reported to Congress on the trust question, the convention will be held just at the right time.

The meeting of the league will hereafter take place at 7:30 every Monday night.

### Carnegie Gives Again.

Through the generosity of Mr. Andrew Carnegie, the Washington Public Library commission will be enabled to have the proposed public library building erected according to the original plans submitted by Ackerman and Ross, the architects. Last Monday a letter was received from Mr. Carnegie stating that he would increase his donation by the sum of \$50,000. This makes the gift amount to \$350,000. This second generous donation was not entirely unexpected by the commission, however. Almost a month ago when the library plans were being considered by the members having the matter in charge, Mr. Carnegie made it known to the commission that additional money would be given if a satisfactory building could not be erected and equipped with the sum donated.

The commission found that as the price of building materials had risen the building contemplated would cost more than \$250,000. Upon Mr. Carnegie's being made aware of this he suggested that the building itself should cost \$300,000. The commission later informed Mr. Carnegie that a suitable structure could be erected for the sum of \$300,000, but this would not furnish and equip the library. For this purpose a larger sum was necessary.

The information was transmitted to Mr. Carnegie in a letter written by Commissioner John W. Ross, the president of the commission, September 14. Upon the receipt of this communication in Scotland, where Mr. Carnegie has been for several months, he immediately wrote back that he had decided to add another \$50,000 to his \$300,000 gift. With this generous sum at hand the commission will at once notify the architects to slightly alter the original plans and submit the same at the earliest possible moment for inspection. As soon as the necessary working plans are provided the contracts will be awarded and the work begun.

**Alexandria's Sesqui Centennial.** Alexandria was founded in dry weather. In that section of Virginia there was no rain from the end of June to the early part of September, 1749. The town was laid out by John West, surveyor, young George Washington and other assistants. In the early summer of that year, the plot having been completed, the sale of lots began on the 13th of July, 1749. These sales were renewed from time to time until late in the fall of that year, and even at that time some few lots remained unsold. So that the year 1749 is not only the sesqui centennial of the laying out of the town, but is also the 125th anniversary of the granting of the land patent to Robert Howson and the 125th year since the establishment of the municipal government—in 1729, not long before the surrender at Yorktown, government by trustees being succeeded by a mayor and commonalty. This government continued until the town, having been transferred to the District of Columbia, received, in 1804, a charter from the Congress of the United States providing for a Mayor and a City Council. In this condition it remained until, in September, 1847, under acts of Congress of the United States and the Commonwealth of Virginia, the city and county of Alexandria were retroceded to the State of Virginia. George Washington was, at the laying out of the town,

about 17 years of age, and it is a notable fact that 40 years later he supervised the laying out, eight miles away and in sight of his early survey, of the capital city of the United States. These surveys covered in part the same ground that had since 1732, been occupied by the village of Bellhaven, which surrounded a tobacco warehouse, and was at that early period the centre of the trade of that section of Virginia and Maryland.

### Claim against Germany.

Ferdinand Holendorff, aged 61 years, a native of Germany, but for some time a resident of the United States, arrived in the city last Monday in order to lay before the State Department an indemnity claim against the German Government. Mr. Holendorff tells a strange story. He states that he served in the German army during the Franco German war, and shortly after its conclusion was appointed to a position in the customs service. Some time in 1879 he got into a difficulty with one of his superiors in office, who, he claims, wanted him to make a false sworn statement, and upon his refusal to do so he was persecuted and hounded in various ways.

The treatment he received excited him greatly, and in the denunciations of which he made use, he referred to the management of the imperial government in a manner which gave his enemies the opportunity to accuse him of lese majeste. The prosecution which then followed resulted in his being incarcerated in an insane asylum, where he remained captive for 27 months. During seven months of this period he was confined in a cell only five by seven feet in size, and, moreover, was kept in total darkness for fifteen weeks.

Holendorff's wife made desperate efforts to have him set free, even petitioning the Emperor, but without avail. Finally, on February 5, 1882, with the assistance of a clergyman, he escaped from the asylum, and, further aided by friends, managed to make his way out of the country and came to the United States.

Holendorff proceeded at once to the West and engaged in mining operations in Utah, Idaho, and Montana. In 1885 he declared his intention to become a citizen of the United States, but owing to circumstances over which he had no control he did not take out his final naturalization papers until 1897. Later in that year he went to Germany for the purpose of setting up a claim for damages for his incarceration in the insane asylum, and with this end in view laid his case before the Imperial Chancellor.

In the course of time he was directed to present himself at police headquarters in Berlin, and without his having had any hearing whatsoever he was taken to another insane asylum, this one in Berlin, and kept there for over fifteen months. Then his case was brought to the attention of the courts, and upon its being heard there he was declared to have been improperly deprived of his liberty, was ordered to be set free, and the decree further put the costs of the proceedings upon the government.

Mr. Holendorff has returned to his adopted country in order to endeavor to secure the intervention of its government for a proper redress of his wrongs.

**Information for Brewers and Others.**  
**SODA COCKTAILS.**  
Persons engaged in manufacturing and bottling for sale an alcoholic beverage composed of Angostura Bitters, etc., are required to pay special tax as rectifiers, and as liquor dealers for selling it, notwithstanding the fact that it is sold under the name of "soda cocktail." Replying to the collector at Peoria, Ill., September 28, the Commissioner says:

Sir: In reply to a letter addressed to this office on the 22d instant by Hexter & Co., Galesburg, Ill. (who have today been referred to you), you will please inform them that the special tax stamps which they hold as wholesale and retail dealers in malt liquor cannot cover their manufacture and sale of soda cocktails, which are alcoholic compounds. For compounding such alcoholic beverages and putting them up in bottles for sale to the trade and selling them, they are required to pay special tax as rectifiers, and also special tax as liquor dealers. Every other person engaged in retailing these cocktails must be required to pay special tax as a retail liquor dealer. These so-called "soda cocktails," they state, are composed of Angostura Bitters, lemon extract, citric acid and sugar sirup.

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The Baltimore & Ohio Railroad will sell special cheap excursion tickets to Philadelphia on account of the National Export Exposition for Thursdays, October 12th and 19th, and November 2nd and 9th, at One Fare for the Round Trip, plus 50 cents admission to the Exposition (minimum rate \$1.00). Tickets will be good going from all points east of the Ohio River, and are valid for return ten days, including date of sale. October 19th will be "Maryland Day," on which occasion tickets will be sold from points in the State of Maryland at rate of One Cent Per Mile in each direction, plus admission of 50 cents, except that rate from Baltimore, including admission, will be \$2.50, and from Washington \$3.25. From Washington and Baltimore tickets will be good going only on Train 504, leaving Washington 7:05 a. m., Baltimore, Camden station, 7:25 a. m., Mount Royal Station, 8:00 a. m. Good returning, leaving Philadelphia on Train 523 at 7:30 p. m. From all other stations in Maryland and District of Columbia, tickets will be good for day of issue only on any train going and coming. From other points in State of Maryland and District of Columbia tickets sold on basis of one cent per mile in each direction, plus admission of 50 cents, will be good for return three days, including date of sale.

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